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DIE BEGRIFFE UND THEORIEN DER MODERNEN PHYSIK. Von *J. B. Stallo*. Nach der dritten Auflage des englischen Originals übersetzt und herausgegeben von Dr. Hans Kleinpeter. Mit einem Vorwort von Ernst Mach. Mit einem Porträt des Verfassers. Leipzig: Verlag von Johann Ambrosius Barth. 1901. Pages, xx, 332. Price, 8.50 M.

Tardy but adequate recognition the late Honorable J. B. Stallo has received from the country of his birth. His work on *The Concepts and Theories of Modern Physics* has enjoyed in America since its first publication in 1881 the highest reputation among scientists and thinkers. It is unnecessary for us to comment upon it here, or upon the high character of its author, who found leisure among one of the most prosaic of occupations to cultivate philosophical ideals. It was at the instance of Dr. E. Mach that the present work was translated into German, and to him also we owe the appreciative preface which is prefixed to the German translation. Mr. Stallo's object was essentially the same as that of Dr. Mach, namely, to "eliminate from science the latent metaphysical elements." And the fact that both these thinkers, starting from different points of view and entirely independent of each other, reached virtually the same conclusions on several of the central problems of the philosophy of science, cannot but have a stimulating and beneficent effect upon this line of research. The translation by Dr. Hans Kleinpeter is adequate and faithful, and it can only be hoped that his work will find a favorable reception in the country of Mr. Stallo's nativity. μ.

LA PSYCHOLOGIE DU RÊVE AU POINT DE VUE MÉDICAL. Par *N. Vaschide* et *H. Piéron*. Paris: Librairie J.-P. Baillière et Fils. 1902. Pages, 95. Price, 1 fr. 50.

MM. Vaschide and Piéron have continued in various forms their researches on dreams, with part of which the readers of *The Monist* are acquainted, and the present little volume is devoted to the subject from the point of view of medicine. General pathology is concerned with this subject more than is commonly supposed, dreams playing an important part in infectious diseases such as typhoid fever, and having also considerable importance in local intestinal, cardiac, and pulmonary affections. In hysteria, dreams are not only a symptom, but also frequently an active factor, of the disorders that produce them. The little volume is one of the series entitled "Les actualités médicales," which aims to present the most recent investigations in medicine. μ.

PHANTASIEEN EINES REALISTEN. Von *Lynkeus*. Zweite unveränderte Auflage. Dresden und Leipzig: Verlag von Carl Reissner. 1900. Pages, vi, 216.

Lynkeus is the *nom de plume* of a German author whose real name is Irvin Bauer. The present volume contains in two parts more than sixty little sketches, many of them of great interest and full of thought. He causes to pass before our eye figures representative of all classes of society, of all types of mankind,—the

pessimist, the optimist, the philosopher, the scholar, the misanthrope; he portrays scenes in the life of Michelangelo, Confucius, the Troubadours, of Timur and Hafiz, the philosophy of Mih-Tse, Alexander the Great, the hero of the battle of Austerlitz, King Solomon, Holbach, the wife of Emperor Tcheu-Sin, Julius Cæsar, Erasmus, Emperor Asoka, etc., etc. A definite tendency is not perceptible, but most of the sketches are pleasing and instructive, and we lay the book aside satisfied that we have met an author who does not go to extremes and yet can entertain us with his genius by comments as well as suggestions implied in his little unassuming stories.

PROBLEME, KRITISCHE STUDIEN ÜBER DEN MONISMUS. Von *Dr. Heinrich Schoeler*.

Leipzig: Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann. 1900. Pages, viii, 107.

This pamphlet is a lively discussion of philosophical problems. It begins with the denunciation of the idea of substance as a "humbug." Monism is refuted, for it believes in a physical substance and in the persistence of energy. The ideas of energy and force, of space and time, are full of difficulties, and motion itself defies definition. The ether hypothesis is a mere assumption, and the connection of energy and matter is incomprehensible. Such are the foundations of our knowledge. Life is a fact, but the origin of life has nowhere been observed, let alone understood. There is the duality of body and mind; and while materialism is crude and monism considerably superior, neither of them can be regarded as a successful explanation of the world. The result is that the world is incomprehensible. Though the riddle of the universe may not be behind phenomena, yet it lies in them as the source of their existence. We may call it energy or force; it is the eternally incomprehensible; it is the same which Siddhattha Gotama calls the *Avidya* and Fichte the *Unconscious*, which precedes as well as follows all consciousness.

PHYSIK DES SEELENLEBENS MIT DEM ERGEBNISSE DER WESENSGLEICHHEIT ALLER BEWUSSTSEINSZUSTÄNDE Allgemeinverständliche Skizze eines Systems der Psychophysiologie und einer Kritik der herrschenden Lehre. Von *Julius Pikler*, Dr. der Staatswissenschaft, Professor der Rechtsphilosophie an der Universität Budapest. Leipzig: Verlag von Johann Ambrosius Barth. 1901. Pages, 40. Price, 1.20 M.

Dr. Julius Pikler, Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Budapest, addresses in this little pamphlet a young friend of his by the name of Erich, for the purpose of explaining to him the psychological problem in its several difficulties. He refers to a prior book of his, entitled: *The Fundamental Law of all Neuropsychical Life*, and discusses perception, comparison, memory, sensation, feeling, volition, deliberation, action, involuntary motions; and he states that self-preservation is the main principle of all the phenomena of soul life,—a principle which no psychologist has as yet fully understood or traced in its significance. He

criticises the wrong psycho-physical theories, and takes Herbert Spencer as a sample to set forth the errors of his definition of life. He explains attention from this principle of self-preservation. He criticises the doctrine of the localisation of functions, and concludes with the suggestion that most likely the neural movements will be found to be of an electrical nature,—a theory which in the meantime has been worked out by Professor Loeb, of Chicago.

PROBLEMI GENERALI DI ETICA. By *Giovanni Vidari*. Milan: Ulrico Hoepli, 1901. Pages, xvi, 271. Price, 4 Lire.

Struck with the prominence which practical ethical questions have attained in all civilised countries during the last twenty years, Mr. Vidari has been impelled to submit to close scrutiny the foundations of scientific ethics, and the methods which it should pursue. He has asked himself such questions as the following: Is the construction of a scientific ethics logically possible? Do we not meet in framing such a system intrinsic and insuperable difficulties? If not, how are the apparent difficulties of this character to be avoided? What are the limits of a system of scientific ethics, what its precise object, what its methods? As will be seen the author does not enter into any of the particular problems of practical ethics, but limits his view to general considerations entirely. It shows a wide acquaintance with the scientific and philosophical literature of America as well as of European countries.

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ESSAI SUR TAINE, SON ŒUVRE ET SON INFLUENCE, D'APRÈS DES DOCUMENTS INÉDITS.

Avec des extraits de quarante articles de Taine non recueillis dans ses œuvres. Ouvrage couronné par l'Académie française (prix Bordin). Par *Victor Giraud*, Professeur de littérature française à l'Université de Fribourg (Suisse). Deuxième édition refondue. Paris: Librairie Hachette et Cie. 1901. Pages, xxxi, 311. Price, 3 fr. 50.

The present study of M. Giraud had, in its inception as a literary essay, the sanction of the great critic Taine himself. The author has carefully compared all of Taine's works and all their various editions, his unpublished manuscripts, his correspondence, etc., and with these materials has endeavored to trace in precise outline the history of Taine's thought and labors. He has devoted a chapter to Taine as a logician, another to Taine as a poet, another to Taine as the historian of English literature, and a final chapter on the influence which Taine exercised on the three or four generations of intellectual life which were in part contemporaneous with his career. Voluminous appendices comprising extracts from articles of Taine not represented in his collected works have been added.

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